

THE MORNING SUN.

Volume 1.
Number 35

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1907.

Five Cents a copy
\$1 for the season

PORTER'S BILL WALKS THE PLANK

ALL THE PIRATES HAD THEIR KNIVES OUT AND
TOOK A SLASH AT THE LUCKLESS MEASURE
—SPONSOR SMITH'S SORROW.

Each of the pirates held a dirk with a keen edge beneath his blouse and when the bill appeared each took a stab at it.

Capt. Kidd of Santa Rosa began the butchery. "Despotism, Czarism, intolerance," he shouted, and the rest of the roystering crew snote their breasts as he talked and muttered, and when the time came they swatted it.

Mutilated, disfigured beyond recognition, it reached the end of the tortuous gauntlet then to walk the plank with the unctuous assistance of the ghoulish crowd. And none read pity in their phlegmatic faces.

It was cruel.

It is painful to recall what happened to Dr. Porter's Board of Health bill in the House yesterday. It is terminable to record all that happened to it.

What did happen was a plenty.

And after all that they did to it, then they postponed it indefinitely.

It was dissected, bisected, emasculated, punctured, perforated, fumigated and embalmed. Memory fails to reproduce what else there was, but this does not half tell the havoc that was wrought. When they had finished it looked like a pyrograph of an accordion-plaited bath robe.

It was cruel.

Sponsor Smith raised up his voice and wept, and there was sorrow for him, but none for the bill.

"Then abolish the Board of Health," he cried, "for there's nothing now for them to do. Just give the members a pension, and let them live on the bounty of the State, for you've cut down their usefulness in the heyday of its luxuriance. They want to be of service, but you won't let them."

And the House heard his words, and was sad. But there was nothing doing.

The bill introduced by Representative Smith of Lake county, being identical with that introduced in the Senate by Mr. West of the First, and which passed the Senate, was the special order at 11 o'clock yesterday morning.

Mr. Harvell of Santa Rosa immediately moved its indefinite postponement. He declared that the bill was the most dictatorial, drastic and dangerous he had ever examined. To pass such a bill, he said, would give the State Health Officer as much power as the Czar of all the Russias.

Mr. MacWilliams offered an amendment to strike out the compulsory vaccination clause, providing for the vaccination of all the persons residing in or entering the State. The Representative from St. Johns said that he regarded vaccination wrong in both theory and practice, and had always been opposed to it; that it seemed to be a functional duty of the Legislature to kill a compulsory vaccination bill in one form or another at every session.

Mr. Smith interposed. He did not want the bill to be misunderstood. It was not the purpose of the State Board of Health to exercise its authority in this respect just because it could. The whole idea was to possess the authority in the event that some emergency arose so that the Board of Health could act decisively within its own province in preserving the public health. The compulsory vaccination clause, he said, was intended particularly to reach roving negroes who spread the contagion.

Mr. Wilson of Calhoun gave notice that if the amendment was not adopted that he would vote against the bill. He is a physician, and said that the bill was needed at Sanford, and had seen enough of vaccination there to convince him that the practice was wrong, and he hoped never to see anything like it again. He thought, too, that the provisions of the bill in other respects would work a hardship on the people, particularly those living in the remote rural districts.

Mr. Rowe said that he had sufficient experience with vaccination to be against it. He was willing to try smallpox the next time in preference. The State seemed to be in very fair health, he said, and he could see no reason to introduce an epidemic of vaccination.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando had an amendment to strike out certain words, the amendment having the effect of lessening the authority carried by the bill.

Mr. Kirkland had an amendment to a similar effect. He asserted that the bill in its original form would work a great injustice on the people.

Mr. Smith: "If you can't trust the State Board of Health, you should abolish it and be done with the whole thing."

Mr. Rowe then offered an amendment. He was afraid that the amendment offered by the gentleman from St. Johns wasn't thorough enough. He wanted to be certain that nothing was left in the bill that would give the authority for compulsory vaccination.

Mr. Smith: "The Board of Health needs this authority in cases of emergency."

Mr. Rowe: "Too much discretion is vested in the Board of Health. We don't know when the Board of Health may determine that some emergency exists for the exercise of these extraordinary rights."

Mr. Willis of Gadsden spoke briefly in favor of the bill. He is a physician and said that the bill was needed to handle the unruly negroes in times of emergency.

Mr. Griggs said he was willing to give the State Board of Health all the power it asked. He did not want to cripple its usefulness, and he did not think that anybody could point out an instance wherein the State Board of Health had acted unwisely or unjustly.

Mr. Richbourg offered an amendment that the bill

AN EPIC OF THE GOPHER.

Bill of Great Importance by Escambia Representative.

The present Legislature has been saved the reproach of an oversight that might have been inexcusable, since bills have been introduced for the protection of every crawling and creeping thing except the gopher. In the Senate, Mr. Beard, and in the House, Mr. Reese, yesterday presented a measure for the protection of the gopher.

In the Senate, President Harris recognized the importance of the measure by referring it to the Committee on State Institutions.

A mass meeting was called in Pensacola in the interest of the measure and a bill was drafted and transmitted to Senator Beard, with the following communication:

Dear John—Please find enclosed the gopher bill, about which we had some conversation last week. In drawing the bill, I had as collaborators such eminent authorities as Nat Cook, Albert Riera, Tony Riera, Jim Wilkins, and the whole mullet gang around Reilly's, and W. A. Blount, so I imagine the bill is all right. I trust you will perceive in the passage of the bill your opportunity for doing some good at this session, and will therefore push it through.

In extolling the virtues of the gopher, I can't do better than quote from the reminiscences of our illustrious citizen, O. H. Laney.

"As an article of diet," he says, "the gopher is unsurpassed, and the only reason why he does not figure on the bill of fare of every epicure in the land is because he has not the railroad facilities to put him upon the tables of the people everywhere. The world knows nothing of gophers. Solomon, when preparing to entertain the beautiful Queen of Sheba, sent forth his ships on all the seas, and from the thousand isles, where many-colored birds flashed their jeweled plumage in the sun, he gathered delicacies for his feasts, yet his most sumptuous dining was deficient for want of gopher soup. Nero's extravagant cruelty, slaughtered harmless humming birds and served their throbbing little gizzards hot on toast, but had he tasted gopher soup Rome would not have burned. All the wealth of an extravagant and luxurious court failed to supply the kitchens of the Alhambra with any luxury so palatable as a fricasseed gopher."

"Jack Sprat could eat no fat,
His wife could eat no lean;
But everybody in the world can eat gopher."

The blessings of the world are well divided after all. Juno and Minerva had ambrosia, and Jupiter and Apollo from Olympus sipped the nectar of the gods, but my humblest constituent, whose one suspender holds his copperas pants in place, as he watches the furrows opened by a butt-headed ox to receive the seeds of spring, has that greatest blessing—gopher soup. There's millions in the gopher trade."

But he must be protected or he will soon be a thing of the past.

Gopher hunters are catching them in the laying season; are using long poles with hooks attached to the end, with which to drag them from their holes, and which more frequently mutilates them in the hole, to die, and having nearly exterminated those of marketable size, are now bringing in the babies.

Save them, John, and posterity will rise up and call you blessed.

H. H. THORNTON.

HOUSE TURNS DOWN INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

Mr. Pettigrew's resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution for the establishment of a system of the initiative and referendum failed in the House yesterday for the reason that it didn't get the necessary three-fifths to authorize passage and submission to the people for ratification. The vote was 25 for to 22 against.

The measure was supported by Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Richbourg, Mr. Kirkland and others on the floor. Mr. Faulkner said that he didn't expect the House to pass the resolution, but he was in favor of it, and it would be only a matter of time until a sufficient number would find it to be the right thing. Mr. Pettigrew spoke on the subject, urging its passage. He said if the resolution failed it would be because the members had not studied it, for it was an application of the spirit of Democracy.

FOR THE STATE TROOPS.

Before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs and the House Committee on Appropriations advocates of improvements for the State troops will appear to-night.

The meeting will be held in Representative Hall, beginning at 8 o'clock, and many military men and other friends of the militia will be present. Visitors are expected from Jacksonville and other cities.

should not be applicable to the rural districts.

Mr. Wells offered an amendment that nothing in the bill should be so construed to prevent any person from employing his own judgment in the treatment of disease. Mr. Wells explained that he offered this in behalf of the Christian Scientist adherents.

Mr. Rowe then offered another amendment which further abridged the bill.

Mr. Smith here remarked that the Board of Health would better be retired, and that nothing would be left for the members of that body to do.

Mr. Wells offered an amendment providing that the measure should not apply to Leon county.

Here the previous question was moved and the bill was indefinitely postponed by 42 to 14.

UNIFORMITY BILLS ON SPECIAL ORDER

SENATOR CRANE OPENS THE SWITCH AND GETS
HIS STATE TEXT BOOK BILL ON THE MAIN
LINE—DEMANDS FAIR TREATMENT FOR HIS
BILL, WHICH IT HAD NOT RECEIVED.

Quickly did Senator Crane get on the job yesterday morning when the time came to consider the special order of the Humphries county uniformity text book bill.

When the bill was made a special order, just previous to adjournment Wednesday, Mr. Crane was not aware of its character and before he did realize that his State uniformity bill was on the switch the session had ended.

He was indignant at the manner in which his bill, and that of Senator McCreary on the same subject—though the latter indicated no resentment—had been shelved in favor of the bill of Senator Humphries.

In vigorous tones, Mr. Crane criticized the action, and asked continuance until next Tuesday, and that the other two bills, Nos. 16 and 34, be made special orders at the same time. This was agreed to by the Senate, after Mr. Crane had expressed his opinion concerning the action of the previous day.

"I am only asking for fair play," said Senator Crane, "and I do not consider that making Senate Bill No. 101 a special order for today, when it was only reported yesterday, is fair play."

"Giving it precedence over the other text book bills is not fair play. The other bills were introduced the second day of the session, and had not been reported by the committee and placed on the calendar until recently," he continued.

"I was asked several days ago to have Bills Nos. 16 and 34 made a special order, but I did not wish to try to

"I was informed," the Committee on Education was trying to doctor up No. 101 so that it could start," declared Mr. Crane. "I did not expect a favorable report of my bill, one reason being that two members of the committee had voted against it last session."

"I insist on fair treatment for my bill in getting it before the Senate, and then it can stand on its merits," he added.

Mr. Humphries arose, "in behalf of the committee," he said, because he wished to explain that the long delay in reporting the bills was because of waiting that a hearing might be held by the committee. As soon after as the committee could be gotten together the bills were reported.

"The first two were reported adversely," said Senator Humphries, "while No. 101 was held for inspection. Under the rule, it is the chairman's duty to move the indefinite postponement of Nos. 16 and 34. Then an expression of the Senate could be given on State uniformity and we would know what it favored, and if it did not want those bills they would then be out of the way."

Mr. Humphries said that he did not want to be unfair, and only asked that the rules of the Senate concerning indefinite postponement be followed.

The motion of Mr. Crane for a special order prevailed, however, and State uniformity has a chance to fight for its life.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS REALIZED.

Mr. Watson's Parliamentary Tactics were Discovered.
"The Coup de Grace That Failed" is the title of a little play presented in the House yesterday morning by Representative Watson of Dade county.

Mr. Watson is understood to be in opposition to the movement to divide Dade county. The bill has passed the Senate and reached the House yesterday morning.

Bills that come over from the Senate are read by their titles as a rule and referred to the proper committees. When the bill for the creation of Palm Beach county was reached, Mr. Watson asked that it be read. Under the rules a bill can not be indefinitely postponed until after it has been read. It is apprehended to have been Mr. Watson's plan to move the indefinite postponement of the bill as soon as the reading was finished. The friends of the measure were not expecting anything of the kind, and the plan might have worked successfully had not two of the rank ones tumbled to the racket with agility and got busy while the bill was being read. So the motion was not made and the bill was referred to the Committee on Civil and County Organization.

VICTORY FOR STATE COLLEGE WOMEN.

The United Daughters of the Confederacy of Florida according to their custom, this year offered a medal the best essay on the life and achievements of some famous leader of the Confederacy. The subject assigned for present year was General Albert Sidney Johnston.

The contest was open to all students of the following institutions: The State College for Women, University of the State of Florida, Stetson University, and Re College.

The result of the contest was awaited with interest by all concerned, and the medal has just awarded to the essay offered by Miss Mary Reynold student at the State College.

The competing essays were judged by their history, accuracy, their general arrangement, their tone and their composition, as also style.